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WASHINGTON---The hard-hitting Newark Eagles took three out of four games from the championship Homestead Grays then twice whitewashed the Philadelphia Stars, 3-0 and 6-0, in a Sunday twin bill to clinch the Negro National League first half championship, last week.

With only three games with the lowly New York Black Yankees remaining before the first half race ends July 4th, the Birds were assured of the first half title--their first in the history of the NNL, after the Sabbath twin triumph over the faltering Philly Stars, who failed to win a game in three tries during the hectic week of action.

The youthful and ~~xxx~~ talented Manlymen won 14 out of their last 15 games to sew up the first half crown, with Leon Day and Rufus Lewis, the pitching twins, bearing the brunt of the hurling duties. Day and Lewis were the victorious flingers over the Stars' Henry McHenry and Bill Nichols before 8,000, at Newark's Ruppert Stadium. During the week each had turned in a victory over the Grays during the crucial four-game series.

The Birds trounced the Grays, 12-8, at Newark, Tuesday; ~~8x~~ 8-4, at Trenton, Wednesday; then bowed to the NNL champions, 13-11, at Washington, Thursday, but took the finale, 11-10, at Newark, Friday night. Terrific hitting marked the four games, with a total of 77 runs being scored by the two teams.

The Grays were furthered humbled by the cellar-dwelling N.Y. Black Yankees Saturday night, 11-4, but avenged the defeat with a double victory over the Yanks, in Washington Sunday, 7-1 and 14-5, as Josh Gibson led the 30-hit Grays' attack with a three-run homer, two doubles and single in six trips to the plate.

The fifth-place Baltimore Elite Giants moved into a threatening position for the runner-up spot by downing the Philly Stars, Tuesday night, 5-1, behind excellent pitching by ex-GI Joe Black, then humiliated the Black Yankees, 4-1 and 12-1, Friday night. However, the Elites fell victims to the New York Cubans before 10,000 at the Polo Grounds, Sunday, as Impe Barnhill, showing a dash of his old form, hurled three-hit ball, as the Latins tripped the Baltimoreans, 4-1. Henry Kimbro's 400-foot homer in the eighth inning was the only run scored off Barnhill, who bested the Elites' ace, Bill Byrd, who scattered nine hits.

The Cubans earlier had defeated the Black Yankees, 5-2, to ~~xxxx~~ edge back into third place in the loop standings as the Grays dropped to fourth place.

With the first half over Thursday, all teams began making plans for the opening of the second half race on Sunday, July 7, with renewed lineups and renewed vigor.